3. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said first powdered composition further comprises an anti-caking agent.

4. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said second composition comprises a gel.

5. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said second composition comprises agar in addition to said indicator.

6. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said indicator comprises a pH indicator that changes color when the pH is increased.

7. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said urea has a mean particle size of less than about 0.05 mm.

8. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said first powdered composition and said second composition are positioned in the same container in a spaced apart relationship.

9. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said second composition further comprises a bactericide or a bacteristat.

10. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said indicator comprises phenol red.

11. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said second composition further comprises a pH adjuster.

12. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 2, wherein said second composition further comprises agar and a pH adjuster.

13. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said gastric material is contacted with said first powdered composition such that at least a portion of the urea is combined with the gastric material prior to being contacted with said second composition.

14. (Amended) A method for detecting the presence of urease in a gastrointestinal system comprising:

providing a sample of a gastric biopsy material from a patient;

contacting said gastric material with a first composition comprising urea, said urea being converted into ammonia when contacted with urease;

thereafter contacting said gastric biopsy material with a second composition

comprising an indicator contained in a gel, wherein, when ammonia is present, said indicator changes color for indicating the presence of urease in said gastric material.

15. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 14, wherein said urea is present as a powder in said first composition.

16. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 15, wherein said second composition further comprises agar and a pH adjuster, and wherein said indicator comprises phenol red.

17. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 14, wherein said gastric material is contacted with said first composition such that at least a portion of the urea is combined with the gastric material prior to being contacted with said second composition.

18. (Amended) A method for detecting the presence of urease in a gastrointestinal system comprising:

providing a sample of gastric material from a patient;

contacting said gastric material with a composition comprising a powdered urea and a dry indicator, said urea being converted into ammonia when contacted with urease and wherein, when ammonia is produced, said indicator indicates the presence of ammonia thereby indicating the presence of urease in said gastric material.

19. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 18, wherein said urea present within said composition has a mean particle size of less than about 0.1 mm.

20. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 18, wherein said urea present within said composition has a mean particle size of less than about 0.05 mm.

21. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 18, wherein said composition further comprises an anti-caking agent.

22. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 18, wherein said indicator comprises a pH indicator that changes color when the pH is increased.

Please add the following new claims:

23. (New) The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of observing the second composition after contact with the gastric material to verify the presence or absence of urease in the gastric material.